



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 21-488
OMB Control No. 3060-1283

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES OCTOBER 28, 2021
COMPLIANCE DATE FOR SUBMARINE CABLE OUTAGE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

GN DOCKET NO. 15-206

On July 12, 2016, the Commission released a *Report and Order* in GN Docket No. 15-206 (*Order*) establishing rules requiring submarine cable licensees to report when submarine (or “undersea”) cable outages occur and when communications over those facilities are disrupted.¹ On December 20, 2019, the Commission adopted an *Order on Reconsideration (Recon Order)*, modifying certain aspects of the required reporting to conform with how the Commission plans to use the reported information.²

On March 25, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection associated with the *Order* and *Recon Order* (OMB Control # 3060-1283). Under this new information collection, licensees must report specific unplanned outages greater than 30 minutes on a portion of the cable system between submarine line terminal equipment (SLTE) or greater than four hours when it affects a fiber pair.³ Today, the Commission published notice of this approval in the Federal Register, triggering the 6 month compliance with the rule provisions subject to OMB approval.⁴ The compliance date of these rules is accordingly October 28, 2021. Licensees must submit this information using the FCC’s Network Outage Reporting System (NORS).⁵

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Scott Cinnamon at (202) 418-2319 or scott.cinnamon@fcc.gov or Charlene C. Goldfield at (202) 418-1372 or charlene.goldfield@fcc.gov, Attorney-Advisors of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division.

¹ *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, GN Docket No. 15-206, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 7947 (2016).

² *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, GN Docket No. 15-206, Order on Reconsideration, 34 FCC Rcd 13054 (2019) (*Recon Order*).

³ *Id.* at 13057-9, para. 11, 16-18.

⁴ Federal Communications Commission, *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, 86 Fed Reg. 22360 (Apr. 28, 2021); *Recon Order*, 34 FCC Rcd at 13067, para. 42.

⁵ *Network Outage Reporting System* (Feb. 3, 2021), <https://www.fcc.gov/network-outage-reporting-system-nors>.